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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. The President, H. E. Mr. Zbigniew Maria Wlosowicz, opened the second regular session of the Executive Board and outlined the items that would be taken up during the session. He informed the Board that there had been a series of informal meetings on the proposed programming period since the first regular session of the Board, which, it was hoped, would pave the way for consensus.

2. The President informed the Executive Board that item 6 would be taken up in informal consultations since the documentation on the programming period had not been available in all languages until the previous week. These consultations would help to prepare for a decision to be taken at the annual session of the Board in June 1995.

3. The President also reported to the Executive Board that the Bureau had met four times since the first regular session; it had reviewed the draft report of the first regular session as well as the proposed new guidelines on field visits. The Bureau had also approved the dates and composition of the teams for field visits to Turkey (16-24 May 1995) and Ghana/Niger (31 July-11 August 1995). The Bureau had discussed ways to improve its working methods, which were aimed at ensuring transparency.

4. The Executive Board approved the following agenda for its second regular session 1995, as contained in document DP/1995/L.2/Rev.1:

Item 1: Organizational matters

Item 2: UNFPA: Country programmes and projects

Item 3: UNDP: Country programmes and related matters

Item 4: UNDP: Evaluation

Item 5: UNDP: Matters relating to the least developed countries

Item 6: UNDP: Matters relating to the programming cycles

Item 7: UNDP: HIV and Development National Professional Officers

Item 8: United Nations Development Fund for Women

Item 9: United Nations Capital Development Fund

Item 10: UNDP: Assistance to the Palestinian People

Item 11: Other matters

5. The Executive Board agreed to the work plan contained in document DP/1995/L.2/Rev.1.

6. The Executive Board approved the report of the first regular session 1995 (DP/1995/9).

Guidelines for UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board field visits

7. The President introduced the item, explaining that the guidelines were the result of a long and thorough consultation within the Bureau as well as with interested delegations. The Bureau finalized the guidelines at a meeting on 16 March. The President made the following statement:

> The understanding of the Bureau is that in presenting candidates from their region to participate in any given field visit, members of the Bureau of the Executive Board will do their utmost to ensure that equal access to participation in the visits is encouraged by flexible rotation among the potential candidates and that priority is given to those who have not participated in previous field visits.
>
> It is the understanding of the Bureau that participation of a particular individual will not normally exceed two field visits in a period of three years.
>
> It is also the understanding of the Bureau that participation in field visits will normally be limited to members of the Executive Board.

8. The Executive Board adopted the guidelines for UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board field visits contained in the note by the Executive Board secretariat (DP/95/14).

Future sessions of the Executive Board

9. One delegation asked if it would be possible to hold a joint UNDP/UNFPA session at the annual session on the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). It was noted that while the agenda for the UNFPA segment contained an item on the matter, UNDP planned to take it up under the item on the annual report of the Administrator. With the suggested amendment, the Executive Board agreed to the subjects to be discussed at its future sessions as listed in the annex to the overview decision 95/13.

10. The seriousness of the problem of documents not being available in all languages was cited. The representative who raised the issue did, however, recognize the efforts of the secretariat to avoid the problem. Another delegation asked if it would be possible for the Executive Board to have two regular sessions and one annual session. Longer intervals between meetings could help in enabling documents to be received in time.

11. Another delegation said the work plan should not be limited and suggested that the Executive Board could meet more than four times per year. Another delegation stated that four meetings per year had been a compromise. The aim of holding more frequent meetings was to increase tranparency. Another delegation said that it was difficult for developing countries to attend a large number of meetings in New York.

12. With reference to General Assembly resolution 48/162, in which the Assembly had created the new governance of UNDP and UNFPA, it was underlined that the arrangements were experimental and one delegation indicated that UNFPA might have its own governing body in the future.

13. It was suggested that the third regular session of 1996 could be held from 3 to 6 September 1996 so as not to be too close to the opening of the General Assembly.

14. The following dates of future sessions of the Executive Board were approved, ad referendum:

28 August-1 September 1995	Third regular session 1995
16-19 January 1996	First regular session 1996
25-29 March 1996	Second regular session 1996
20-31 May 1996	Annual session 1996
(open)	Third regular session 1996

15. The Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA informed the Executive Board of two informal meetings on UNFPA programme priorities in light of ICPD, to be held on 8 May (on substantive themes) and 15 May (on strategy).

16. The secretariat informed the Executive Board that a summary of the Administrator's remarks on matters relating to the programming cycles was available.

UNFPA SEGMENT

II. UNFPA: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

17. As requested by the Executive Board, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund provided the Board with a brief update on recent developments at the Fund. She noted that in the three months since the last session of the Board, UNFPA had been fully engaged in redefining its programme priorities in light of the International Conference on Population and Development; in improving its programme delivery; and in participating in various inter-agency and intergovernmental fora.

18. She noted that UNFPA had held a management retreat under the overall theme of "A Time for Change". Participants discussed, inter alia, what the mission of UNFPA should be for the next 10 years; what was the comparative advantage of UNFPA vis-à-vis other actors in the population field; how to focus the UNFPA programme on fewer substantive sectors and its limited resources on the countries most in need; and how to collaborate better with others in the United Nations system as well as with bilateral and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In view of the issues raised during the retreat, the changes that were taking place in UNFPA programming procedures, and the review that the Executive Board would undertake in June of UNFPA programme priorities and directions, UNFPA would convene a global meeting in mid-1995 in order to help bring about change in the most effective and speedy fashion.

19. Several delegations made general comments concerning the UNFPA country programmes being submitted to the Executive Board. Several were pleased that the proposed programmes had begun to reflect some of the main principles and themes of the Programme of Action that had been adopted at the ICPD, in

particular the shift to a reproductive-health approach and the emphasis on the empowerment of women. They recognized that this was an evolving process and asked therefore that future programmes give more prominence to such themes, both in the background section to the reports and in the proposed programmes themselves. Several delegations also welcomed the importance given in the programmes to strengthen coordination and to increase the use of national and local NGOs in programme implementation.

A. Africa

Assistance to the Government of Benin (DP/FPA/CP/148)

20. Numerous delegations commented on the programme. Two expressed concern about the lack of integration of activities in the proposed programme, in particular in the area of information, education and communication (IEC). One felt that the programme did not clearly reflect the important structural and policy developments that had recently taken place, noting in particular the Government's shift from a pro-natalist policy to one of full support for the ICPD Programme of Action. Several delegations noted that the proposed resources seemed inadequate in light of the programme presented, particularly in a country where 44 per cent of the women were of reproductive age. Two noted that there was no resident UNFPA Country Director in the country, and asked whether UNFPA planned to appoint a resident Country Director in Benin. One delegation, noting the lack of government commitment and of coordination among the large number of donors active in the country, asked how such factors would affect the UNFPA country programme. Another, noting that the report did not give the Government's contribution, asked what that contribution was.

21. The Director, Africa Division, emphasized that advocacy was an important component of the proposed programme. This was reflected in the programme's IEC activities, both in terms of level of allocations and in terms of the programme strategy and objectives. She agreed that the amount proposed for the programme was inadequate compared to the needs of the country, but stressed in that regard that UNFPA first had to demonstrate that it could spend the amount proposed. She acknowledged that the lack of coordination had been a serious problem in the past, but pointed out that both the Government and donors were working to improve the situation. She said that the Government's full support for the ICPD Programme of Action was a clear indication of its increased commitment to population activities. She estimated the Government's contribution at approximately $7 million, which would be provided primarily in the form of staff, equipment and facilities. The Executive Director noted that the UNFPA budget proposals being submitted to the Executive Board in August would include a request for a resident Country Director for Benin.

22. The Executive Board approved the country programme for Benin as contained in document DP/FPA/CP/148.

Assistance to the Government of Comoros (DP/FPA/CP/141)

23. Several delegations commented on the programme. Two noted the importance of creating awareness among the country's political and religious

leaders and thus welcomed the emphasis on IEC activities in all areas of the programme. One stressed that the empowerment of women was indispensable to the success of the programme. Another, noting that the proposed programme was only for two years, questioned whether the programme could achieve its objectives in such a short period of time. He therefore asked how long the next programme would be and in what amount.

24. The Director, Africa Division, agreed that IEC activities were the key to success in population programming in the Comoros, in particular in creating awareness of the negative implications of rapid population growth on social and economic development and in helping to change men's attitudes towards women. She stressed in that regard, however, that bringing about social and cultural change of such magnitude was a slow and arduous process that required continuous and concerted effort. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) explained that UNFPA could not at that time determine the length or amount of the Fund's next programme, as it would be based on the findings and recommendations of such programming exercises as the Fund's Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) exercise and the mid-term and final programme reviews.

25. The Executive Board approved the country programme for Comoros as contained in document DP/FPA/CP/141.

Assistance to the Government of Mauritius (DP/FPA/CP/143)

26. The Executive Board approved the country programme for Mauritius as contained in document DP/FPA/CP/143.

Assistance to the Government of Mozambique (DP/FPA/CP/142)

27. Numerous delegations commented on the programme. Several stressed the importance of addressing the needs of resettled refugees and displaced persons within the framework of the UNFPA programme and therefore asked how the UNFPA programme would deal with those two groups. They also emphasized the need to work with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as well as with UNDP in that regard. Another delegation expressed concern that the proposed programme did not give sufficient emphasis to systems development. He also stressed that particular attention must be given to programme design, since that had been a major weakness in the previous programme. One delegation asked how UNFPA planned to reorient its programme to a reproductive-health approach in Mozambique. She also asked what was the comparative advantage of UNFPA in the area of income-generating activities for women and how UNFPA would link such activities to other activities in the programme. Several delegations encouraged UNFPA to make greater use of NGOs and the private sector in implementing the programme and asked in that regard if UNFPA planned to assess the capacity of NGOs and other organizations to do so.

28. The Director, Africa Division, noted that UNFPA understood the importance of addressing the needs of resettled refugees and displaced persons, and pointed out that the proposed programme was focused in a province where there were large numbers of both. She assured the Executive

Board that UNFPA would work closely with both the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and UNDP in this area. She was confident that the reproductive-health approach would be effective, particularly since African countries liked the more comprehensive approach. The major obstacle to programme performance was the lack of infrastructure in the area of primary health care. The Director noted that UNFPA had no particular comparative advantage in the area of income-generating activities for women but stressed that such activities were critical in helping women to achieve the level of status they needed to advance. UNFPA would therefore work closely with organizations that had expertise in that area. She assured the Board, however, that UNFPA would see to it that such activities were linked to reproductive health activities. She acknowledged the need to expand the use of NGOs and the private sector to supplement government efforts in programme implementation, but noted that that would be a major challenge.

29. The Executive Board approved the country programme for Mozambique as contained in document DP/FPA/CP/142.

B. Arab States

Assistance to the Government of the Republic of Sudan (DP/FPA/CP/145)

30. Several delegations asked if UNFPA intended to use NGOs in implementing the programme. One asked why the programme was concentrated in the eastern states and in refugee camps outside Khartoum. She asked if the UNFPA programme could be expanded to provide assistance in the south of the country.

31. The Chief, Division for Arab States and Europe, noted that the programme provided support to NGOs and universities that had experience in the population field and allowed for their participation in programme implementation. She cited Ahfad University for Women as a notable example of effective UNFPA/NGO cooperation. She agreed that NGOs would be very important in programme implementation but stressed that it was necessary to help to build up their capacity to do so. She explained that the programme strategy was to focus on reproductive health and family planning services in the eastern states and in women refugee camps around Khartoum in order to help improve the status of women's health in these areas, which were among the most underdeveloped and disadvantaged in Sudan. She stressed that focusing on such areas was the most effective way of ensuring a tangible outcome of the Fund's assistance.

32. The Executive Board approved the country programme for Sudan as contained in document DP/FPA/CP/145.

C. Asia and the Pacific

Assistance to the Government of Cambodia (DP/FPA/KHM/PROJ/1 and PROJ/2)

33. The Executive Board considered two UNFPA projects for Cambodia: (a) Institutional strengthening and family health improvement through birth spacing (document DP/FPA/KHM/PROJ/1); and (b) Support to the National Population Census of Cambodia (document DP/FPA/KHM/PROJ/2).

34. Several delegations commented on the two projects. One stressed the need to have the appropriate legal and constitutional framework in place before the actual census enumeration. He asked if UNFPA had taken that into account when proposing assistance to such a project. Another delegation felt that the birth-spacing project might have a greater impact if it were concentrated in fewer provinces. He questioned if $1.5 million was sufficient to provide services in five priority provinces and in Phnom Penh municipality.

35. The Director, Asia and Pacific Division, explained that the census project was designed in two phases. Phase I of the project, which was before the Executive Board at its current session, would focus on training activities and not on the actual conduct of the census. The actual conduct of the census would take place in Phase II of the project, which would be submitted to the Board only after the appropriate legal and constitutional framework was in place. He assured Board members that such a framework was a precondition of all United Nations-supported census operations in all countries. He explained that the birth-spacing project would also be implemented in a phased manner so as to ensure quality of care. The project would therefore focus on consolidating and improving existing services before expanding such services to other areas.

36. The Executive Board approved the two projects for Cambodia as contained in documents DP/FPA/KHM/PROJ/1 and DP/FPA/KHM/PROJ/2.

Assistance to the Governments of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan,Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (DP/FPA/CP/144)

37. Numerous delegations commented on the programme. Several welcomed the programme's focus on reproductive health and family planning and on information, education and communication. Such a focus was urgently needed to help to reduce the high rate of abortion, promote the benefits and expand the use of modern contraceptives, and overcome social and cultural obstacles to contraceptive use. One delegation asked if UNFPA planned to involve NGOs in programme implementation, noting in particular the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) in that regard. Another delegation felt that the programme's policy formulation component should be strengthened and that governments should be encouraged to develop plans in their national budgets for financing public-sector contraceptive commodities. One delegation asked if the subregional approach was appropriate given the wide diversity in social and health indicators noted in the table to the report.

38. The Director, Asia and Pacific Division, emphasized that the proposed programme would promote close collaboration with NGOs and in particular with IPPF. UNFPA in fact planned to use IPPF to execute some of the important components of the proposed programme. UNFPA had been collaborating closely with the other agencies active in those countries and had used IEC materials developed by many of them. He said that UNFPA would look into sharpening the focus of policy formulation as and when resources became available. He said that the current economic situation and health-care system tended to mitigate against the use of the private sector at that time. He noted that the programme took into account the similarities of the socio-economic and political situations of the six countries and the fact that they shared common concerns and interests. However, for selected interventions, a subregional approach would be adopted to complement the country-specific activities.

39. The Executive Board approved the programme for Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as contained in document DP/FPA/CP/144.

JOINT SEGMENT

III. UNFPA/UNDP: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS AND RELATED MATTERS

40. The following country programmes for UNFPA and UNDP were discussed in a joint segment.

UNFPA assistance to the Government of Indonesia (DP/FPA/CP/147)
UNDP cooperation framework with Indonesia (DP/CP/INS/5 and NOTE/5

41. Many delegations welcomed the emphasis in the UNFPA programme on South-South cooperation. Several noted that the proposed programme reflected well the themes of the Programme of Action, in particular the shift from a target-based to a demand-fulfilment strategy. One delegation, noting that the country strategy note had given high priority to improving the delivery system for family planning services, said that that element was not evident in the proposed UNFPA programme. He also asked what was meant by the phrase "unmet programmatic needs". He further asked if the transitional nature of the programme was indicative of an exit strategy for UNFPA assistance to Indonesia. Two delegations asked about HIV/AIDS activities in the country. One asked for more information on Indonesia's family-centred strategy to combat HIV/AIDS. The other asked how UNFPA planned to link the activities of the UNFPA-supported programme with those of other agencies in the context of the United Nations Joint and Co-sponsored Programme on HIV/AIDS.

42. The UNFPA Country Director for Indonesia agreed that Indonesia had a prominent role to play in South-South cooperation. He stressed, however, that the Government saw such cooperation as a partnership, whereby both partners benefited from the exchange. He noted that the proposed programme would emphasize improving delivery systems as called for in the country strategy note. He said that the phrase "unmet programmatic needs" referred to such things as providing uniform quality of services nationwide and improving counselling techniques. Regarding the family-centred strategy to combat HIV/AIDS, the Country Director stressed that, in Indonesia, the family was central to all development activities as well as an important vehicle for social change. He said that UNFPA was committed to working with its partner organizations in the United Nations Joint and Co-Sponsored Programme on HIV/AIDS.

43. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) said that the issue of resource allocation would be discussed by the Executive Board within the framework of the Fund's report on programme priorities in light of ICPD, which was being submitted to the Board at its annual session in June. He acknowledged that Indonesia was at an advanced stage in attaining the goals set forth in the ICPD Programme of Action. This did not mean that UNFPA would, in future, withdraw its assistance from the country, but rather that the Fund's involvement would be different from that in the past.

44. In introducing the UNDP portion of the joint segment on Indonesia, the representative of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific explained that the term "country programme" had been changed to "cooperation framework". The framework was essentially a strategic document that did not focus on the identification of projects and their details, but rather identified major strategic goals, where priorities of the country and the mandate of UNDP coincided. The assumptions on resources beyond 1996 and the terminology used in the framework were interim and were not to be construed as a precedent for future programming. The representative also highlighted the strong sustainable human development orientation of the framework, which concentrated on two thematic areas of equitable development and poverty reduction and environmental protection and regeneration and emphasized national capacity-building through human resources development. It was stressed that the framework was anchored in Indonesia's development priorities, was linked to the country strategy note (CSN), and complemented other bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes in the country.

45. The representative of Indonesia explained that the formulation of the framework had evolved through a series of thorough and broad-based consultations between the Government and UNDP. The priorities outlined in the framework were fully compatible with Indonesia's current five-year development plan and closely reflected the comparative advantage of UNDP. Although the United Nations development system provided only a modest level of resources compared to other development cooperation partners, the Government of Indonesia recognized the uniqueness of UNDP assistance, including its universality, flexibility, and responsiveness to the needs of developing countries.

46. All the delegations who spoke on the matter strongly supported the UNDP cooperation framework with Indonesia. In particular, they commended the concept and the quality of the framework and welcomed its focus on equitable development and poverty reduction and on environmental protection and regeneration. Moreover, they urged that efforts be made to maintain the focus during the implementation stage. Many delegations welcomed the participatory approach used in the formulation of the framework and the close linkage between the CSN and the framework. Some delegations commended Indonesia and UNDP for pioneering the concept of a cooperation framework instead of a country programme. A few delegations noted the planned activities outside the two major areas of focus, for example, HIV/AIDs, technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) and small and medium-scale enterprises and emphasized the strategic and coordinative role of UNDP in those areas, given the limited resources. One delegation noted the high rate of national execution (90 per cent) envisaged under the new framework, and raised concern about its implications for both programme quality and UNDP accountability. Some delegations found the description of the comparative advantage of UNDP in the framework document to be rather general and recommended that when specific programmes were prepared, the advantages could be made more country-specific. One delegation expressed concern about the Government's absorptive capacity for external resources, especially in the area of environment and natural resources management. Finally, another delegation urged both the Government and UNDP to pay special attention to the potential conflict between development and the environment and social sector.

47. The representative of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific responded to the delegates' remarks. The formulation of the framework took into consideration the Executive Board's request for improved monitoring and evaluation, as expressed by the Board during the mid-term review of the previous programme. UNDP would ensure that those concerns were systematically addressed in the course of programme design, implementation, and annual reviews including the mid-term review. With regard to programme focus and UNDP comparative advantage, UNDP in collaboration with the Government planned to conduct a series of programming exercises to identify more specific and high priority interventions under each of the two selected thematic areas of the framework, with a view to maximizing UNDP resources and comparative advantages in the context of Indonesia. On the issue of absorptive capacity, the UNDP role under the new framework would be to enhance the Government's capacity through human resources development for improve management and utilization of external resources, including in the area of environment.

48. Moreover, the Government of Indonesia was fully committed to equitable and sustainable development and was determined to strike a balance between economic growth and the social and environmental consequences of growth. Indonesia's achievements in reducing the level of poverty from 70 per cent to 14 per cent in the last 25 years had been both remarkable and exemplary. Through the current cooperation framework, UNDP was committed to assisting the Government to reduce further the level of poverty to approximately 6 per cent before the turn of the century. The Government also attached great importance to the development of small and medium-scale enterprises, as the majority of the labour force was employed by such enterprises. In that regard, UNDP, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), was formulating a project on self-employment and micro enterprise development, as part of the integrated approach to poverty alleviation adopted in the current cooperation framework. As Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, Indonesia had given special support to South-South cooperation by sharing its experience with other developing countries, most recently with some African countries. UNDP would continue to support the efforts of the Government during the implementation of the new cooperation framework. UNDP had assisted the Government in the formulation of a national HIV/AIDS strategy. The UNDP role in the framework would be to assist the Government to ensure that future assistance by all development partners, including UNDP, were managed in an integrated and coordinated manner.

49. The Executive Board approved the UNFPA country programme for Indonesia (DP/FPA/CP/146), the UNDP cooperation framework with Indonesia (1995-1999) (DP/CP/INS/5) and took note of the Note of the Administrator (DP/CP/INS/NOTE/5).

UNFPA assistance to the Government of Turkey (DP/FPA/CP/147)
UNDP fifth country programme for Turkey (DP/CP/TUR/5)

50. The Director of the Regional Directorate for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (RDEC) stated that the broad areas of concentration of the UNDP fifth country programme for Turkey were implementation of the global agenda for development; urbanization; social development and disparity reduction; and the strengthening of national capacity to provide technical cooperation support to other countries.

51. The Director of Multilateral Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey commented on the developmental plans of his country and highlighted the positive contribution of UNDP to his country's national efforts. He also noted that the valuable but modest UNDP resources were enlarged by Government cost-sharing as a symbol of national commitment to the country programme. The Representative added general comments on the different components of the programme and noted that the UNDP programme was undertaken in the framework of the CSN approved by the Government. The Director also registered the offer of his Government to utilize the country as a centre for regional activities, including the offer to open a regional UNDP office in Istanbul. His delegation noted a discrepancy between the figure provided by the World Bank for per capita gross national product used in the report and that provided by his Government. The Representative also pointed out the successful cooperation with UNFPA and stressed that the support of UNFPA was sought for the activities leading to improvements of vital registration systems in Turkey.

52. Several delegations expressed their satisfaction with the general thrust of the country programme and with the areas of concentration. The delegations welcomed the fact that Turkey was among the first countries that had produced a CSN, and that the UNDP programme was well integrated in the framework. Clarification was sought on the issues of UNDP support to the technical cooperation of Turkey with other countries, the nature of the support to the Habitat II process, and the information in the document of the current socio-economic situation of Turkey.

53. The Resident Representative in Turkey noted that most of the cooperation programmmes between Turkey and other countries were funded with cost-sharing resources. He stated that Turkey had a comparative advantage in terms of geographical location, cultural affinity and relative development level with the countries of Central Asia. The Resident Representative added that the support to the Habitat II process was purely technical. Finally, he noted that mechanisms were in place to make the necessary adjustments to the programme based on the changing socio-economic reality.

54. The Executive Board approved the UNFPA country programme for Turkey (DP/FPA/CP/147) and the UNDP fifth country programme for Turkey (DP/CP/TUR/5).

55. One delegation, on behalf of others, commended UNDP and UNFPA for moving toward greater harmonization of their country programmes. The presentations on Turkey and Indonesia had been an important first step in that direction. The delegation stated that the next appropriate step could be further harmonization of formats and content, and perhaps even joint country programme presentations. It was also noted that the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP) had recognized the value of harmonization, as reflected in document DP/1995/18, which gave an account of the work the Group was undertaking in harmonizing definitions and guiding principles for monitoring and evaluation. The harmonized presentation of budgets and accounts by UNDP and UNFPA, a result of Executive Board decision 94/30, would also make for greater comparability between the various funds and programmes. Moreover, all funds and programmes would benefit from greater transparency in their budget presentations. In that regard, the delegation drew attention to the recommendation of a recent management study carried out by the United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF), which asked that integrated field office budgets be

prepared for each programme country. That would include sections for expenditures of both programme and administrative nature in the same budget. It was suggested that UNDP and UNFPA consider moving toward the concept of integrated budgeting in their future country progammes.

56. Another delegation pointed out that, while valuable, the discussion on UNDP and UNFPA country programmes had taken place after the programmes were finalized. He raised the possibility that UNDP could adopt a procedure similar to that approved recently by the UNICEF Executive Board, by which the Board would discuss an outline of the proposed country programme. One delegation pointed out that the programmes of the two organizations were quite different. The Secretary of the Board said that the UNICEF decision would be studied by UNDP. Another delegation suggested that country programmes of more than 12 pages contain executive summaries.

UNDP SEGMENT

IV. UNDP: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS

57. The Administrator briefed the Executive Board on the activities of UNDP since the first regular session. He highlighted UNDP participation in the World Summit on Social Development (WSSD) and said he was pleased with the mandate given to UNDP in the WSSD Programme of Action. He stated that UNDP would be involved in a major effort to implement the agreements reached at WSSD. The Administrator had chaired a meeting of the Senior Officials in the Economic and Social fields on behalf of the Secretary-General. The Administrator also informed the Board of his work, in cooperation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, to strengthen United Nations assistance to capacity-building in Africa.

58. The Administrator had addressed the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Berlin, where he emphasized the need for all countries to take part in the effort to contain climate change. In March, he had visited Malaysia to attend the Asia and Pacific regional meeting of UNDP Resident Representatives. The Administrator informed the Executive Board that UNDP had been one of five organizations contacted by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, regarding the ability to host the Global Mechanism of the Convention. He stated that UNDP had corresponded with the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, expressing commitment to the implementation of the Convention through the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (formerly UNSO) and willingness to host the Global Mechanism, and affirmed that a close dialogue would be maintained.

59. The Administrator underlined his efforts to address the declining interest in development cooperation and development assistance. He stated that he was doing all he could to enhance public suppport in those areas by re-stating the case for development cooperation in the post-Cold War context. He had undertaken resource mobilization efforts in Canada, Italy and the

United States during the first part of 1995, and participated in a group meeting with donors from the Nordic countries. He explained that he saw his role as Administrator as having four major responsibilities: to get the goals right; to get good people in the right positions; to design a structure that would help to achieve the goals; and to ensure external support. A paper on UNDP goals, based on external discussions and those held with the Executive Board, was distributed.

60. Recent appointments and senior staff reassignments were outlined by the Administrator. He stated that the reassignment exercise had made tremendous strides toward getting people positioned in order to implement UNDP's "Initiatives for change." In the area of personnel policy, an internal paper on the advancement of women within UNDP was being finalized. The Administrator cited the importance of the new biennial budget, to be approved by the Executive Board at its third regular session 1995. He also addressed the recent restructuring of UNDP headquarters.

61. In conclusion, the Administrator outlined the several topics that would be discussed in the coming months: discussions on the Agenda for development; the United Nations fiftieth anniversary; the trienniel policy review; and the relationship of UNDP with the regional economic commissions. The case for development cooperation was now strongest while support was smallest. The outcome of the discussions on the Agenda for development would dramatically affect the future of the United Nations as a development institution. Moreover, he added, it was imperative for the United Nations to be a strong force for development if it was to be a force for peace. The Administrator reiterated the importance of the UNDP focus on poverty elimination within the creation of a sustainable human development framework. The future of UNDP, he said, rested with its ability to operate successfully at the country level.

62. One delegation expressed appreciation for the information regarding the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa. The delegate asked that further consultations take place with the Board before UNDP accepted a formal offer by the Conference of Parties of the Convention, should that offer be made.

A. Regional Directorate for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States

63. In introducing the first country programmes for Belarus, Estonia, the Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Republic of Uzbekistan, the Director of the Regional Directorate for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States pointed out that despite the diversity among the group of countries, they shared common concerns related to the process of transition to democratic societies with market-oriented economies. Most of their economies were continuing to decline and all were affected by the related social consequences.

64. Owing to the lack of previous UNDP programme experience in the region, it had been difficult to establish clearly identifiable niches on which to build the programmes. However, the programmes were now moving forward with much greater focus, clarity and sustainability. The overarching framework for

the programmes were the national human development reports which, with the overall support and coordination of UNDP, were produced by the countries themselves. The Director, RDEC, announced that the focus of the 1996 Workplan for the reports would be the preparation for the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held in Istanbul in June 1996.

65. Other characteristics of the UNDP presence in the region were TCDC initiatives, which allowed the countries to gain access to experience accumulated in other regions. The third element was the role played by the national execution modality, which was increasingly becoming the norm in the implementation of programme activities. Within the programmes, the main areas of concentration were: external resources management; democracy; governance and participation; gender in development; transition to market economies; and environment.

66. The Regional Director stated that he would provide the Executive Board at a later stage with a more detailed presentation on the role and reach of UNDP in the region. That would be done after consultations with the countries of the region to ensure their endorsement.

67. Several delegations expressed their support for the eight country programmes in the RDEC region. One representative emphasized that, despite the very limited programming resources available to the RDEC region, the UNDP comparative advantage was clearly evident, a view supported by several other delegations. He expressed hope that, within resources available to UNDP, RDEC would be strengthened. The areas of concentration, as elaborated in the country programmes, were endorsed by his Government and it was felt that they would pave the way for closer cooperation and form the basis for democratization. The representative strongly endorsed activities that supported the advancement of women, transition to market economy, and protection of the environment. He also urged existing national potentials to be utilized to the fullest extent.

68. Another delegation stated that the temporary assistance of UNDP to the countries was indeed complementary to existing bilateral aid programmes. The potential for developmental cost-sharing resources was also welcomed. One delegation questioned the use of the phrase "temporary assistance".

69. Another delegation expressed concern that the small amounts allocated to the countries over the current four year cycle (between $6.2 to $8 million) could lead to programme fragmentation. It was therefore felt that concentration and prioritization of activities, especially in the poorest countries, was important.

70. One delegation questioned the comparative advantage of UNDP in restructuring and privatization. He also asked how firm the cited estimates were for cost-sharing.

71. The Director, RDEC, in response, stated that the present cost-sharing figures represented firm commitments of what UNDP expected to receive. He cited the comparative advantages of UNDP as its neutrality, impartiality, and its ability to draw globally on the best expertise. He referred in particular to the important role of UNDP in issues of civil society and market reform.

First country programme for Belarus (DP/CP/BYE/1)

72. In introducing the first country programme for Belarus, the Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus stated that his country had become an active cooperation partner for development within the framework of the United Nations. He underlined the catalytic effect of the UNDP country programme, envisaging that the programme's activities would continue well after its completion. Owing to the limited financial resources of both his Government and UNDP, it was expected that third-party cost-sharing would be obtained to carry out a significant part of the programme.

73. The Executive Board approved the first country programme for Belarus (DP/CP/BYE/1).

First country programme for Estonia (DP/CP/EST/1)

74. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Estonia stated that the first country programme was one of the means through which his country hoped to manage the process of change. He stressed that UNDP had developed a unique role through which it enhanced coordination of international assistance efforts in Estonia while pursuing its unique role as a neutral but active partner in transition activities.

75. The country programme would focus on administrative reform, particularly relating to crime prevention and criminal justice reform, the development of a more efficient civil service, and refugees; economic strategies, especially in the field of employment creation through assistance to small-business development, and, drawing from the Estonian National Human Development Report, definition and establishment of policies to tackle the social impact of transition.

76. One delegation indicated that attention should be paid to avoiding duplication of efforts undertaken in Estonia by bilateral programmes and the World Bank, in particular on economic strategies and policies. He also stressed that UNDP should promote subregional cooperation with the other Baltic countries.

77. The Executive Board approved the first country programme for Estonia (DP/CP/EST/1).

First country programme for the Kyrgyz Republic (DP/CP/KYR/1)

78. The Director, RDEC, in his opening remarks, stated that the priorities of the programme were support to the process of democratization, aid management and coordination, management development, and training.

79. The Executive Board approved the first country programme for the Kyrgyz Republic (DP/CP/KYR/1).

First country programme for Latvia (DP/CP/LAT/1)

80. The Permanent Representative of Latvia to the United Nations stated that UNDP was a key partner for his country. Moreover, his Government, drawing on UNDP neutrality, had established a comprehensive programme focused on highly sensitive political priorities. Those activities were concentrated in three main areas: democratization and promotion of social integration, which would absorb almost three-quarters of resources for projects that would include protection and promotion of human rights, development of a national Latvian language training programme, and judicial training; public administration reform and governance, which included support to civil service reform and building capacity for enhanced economic management; and the social impact of transition, in particular provision of strategic support to pension reform and monitoring the impact of the transition process. The Permanent Representative thanked the donors who had been involved in key projects through cost-sharing.

81. The Executive Board approved the first country programme for Latvia (DP/CP/LAT/1).

First country programme for Lithuania (DP/DP/LIT/1)

82. The Permanent Representative of Lithuania introduced the country programme, stating that the programme concentrated on four areas: democratization and civil society development; public administration reform, with emphasis on capacity-building for improved public sector efficiency; human resource development for the market economy, with emphasis on training in economic management; and alleviation of the social impact of transition, with attention on policy formulation and monitoring of human development indicators. The Permanent Representative underlined the political importance of the presence of the UNDP country office.

83. The Executive Board approved the first country programme for Lithuania (DP/CP/LIT/1).

First country programme for the Republic of Moldova (DP/CP/MOL/1)

84. In introducing the country programme, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova underscored the importance of the UNDP presence in Moldova and its support to efforts by his Government, especially in the areas of trade and private sector development. Moreover, the programme responded to the requirements outlined in General Assembly resolution A/48/266 of 28 September 1994, in which the Assembly called on the United Nations system to assist in the country's rehabilitation efforts. He added that the country programme was launched with World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) assistance.

85. The Executive Board approved the first country programme for the Republic of Moldova (DP/CP/MOL/1).

First country programme for Ukraine (DP/CP/UKR/1)

86. The Permanent Representative of Ukraine outlined the areas of concentration for the Ukraine country programme: systemic reform; human development; and environmental management. He referred to resources that had been pledged for seven projects, including the Crimea Integration and Development Programme and Environmental Management of the Dnipro River Basin. The Permanent Representative appealed to donors participating in those projects to make available those resources that had been pledged. Reference was also made to the preparation of the 1995 Ukraine Human Development Report, which provided the overarching framework for the areas of concentration in the country programme and also served as an input to the WSSD.

87. The Permanent Representative expressed regret that the limited UNDP resources made available to Ukraine did not correspond to the situation that continued to exist in the country. He added that the development of UNDP activities in Ukraine was severely hampered by the lack of core resources allocated to Ukraine.

88. The Executive Board approved the first country programme for Ukraine (DP/CP/UKR/1).

First country programme for Uzbekistan (DP/CP/UZB/1)

89. The Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan indicated that the preparation of the first country programme coincided with a period of democratic and market reforms in his country. The Government had chosen a path of development based on gradual strengthening of the economy while maintaining social stability.

90. The issue of guaranteeing the coverage of basic human needs had become the basis for Uzbekistan's cooperation with the United Nations and UNDP.

91. The Permanent Representative further indicated that the country programme was created while the specific needs of Uzbekistan had been taken into account and fully reflected the priorities set by the Government. Parts of the country programme had been presented at the latest Consultative Group meeting for Uzbekistan and had received a positive response from the donor community.

92. The Representative of Uzbekistan thanked the authorities of Germany and the Netherlands for their continuous support for his country's transition. He reaffirmed his conviction that through coordination with other donors, the work of UNDP work in Uzbekistan would bring about concrete and positive results.

93. The speaker went on to say that the reputation of the United Nations and UNDP was built not only in New York, but also locally, through the implementation of programmes, through missions of experts from the various United Nations agencies, and through the activities of the UNDP offices. The role of RDEC had been instrumental in assisting Uzbekistan in its first steps towards a market economy.

94. The Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan reiterated that it was necessary to realize that RDEC worked in a region where new countries had evolved through a unique process. That was why his Government strongly supported the granting of fully-fledged regional bureau status to the Regional Directorate.

95. The Executive Board approved the first country programme for Uzbekistan (DP/CP/UZB/1).

B. Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

Fifth country programme for Barbados (DP/CP/BAR/5)

96. The Assistant Administrator and Regional Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (RBLAC) said the country programme was being presented against the background of continuing economic and structural reforms. Following nearly two decades of stable social and political developments and sound economic management, Barbados had in 1991 embarked upon a stabilization and structural adjustment programme, which had yielded positive results.

97. The current challenge to Barbados was to maintain sustained economic growth while continuing to reduce high levels of unemployment. Also, significant efforts in respect of environmental and natural resources management would be required. The country had attained the status of net contributor and was essentially no longer able to access concessionary funding from the multilateral financial institutions. In that regard, the major challenge for the Government would be the maintenance and expansion of its public sector investment programme by relying increasingly on internal financing.

98. In support of the Government's efforts at sustainable human development, UNDP support would be concentrated in the areas of environmental management and public sector management development. Aid coordination was conducted primarily under the aegis of the Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Economic Development. Periodic meetings of all United Nations system agencies resident in Barbados were held. UNDP would seek to assist the Government in mobilizing resources from multilateral and bilateral donors and agencies in support of the programmes to be developed under the fifth country programme.

99. The Executive Board approved the fifth country programme for Barbados (DP/CP/BAR/5).

Third country programme for the British Virgin Islands (DP/CP/BVI/3)

100. The representative of the United Kingdom welcomed the close collaboration with UNDP in the country. He observed, however, that the United Kingdom was moving out of providing capital assistance and would not be offering support to the Pebbles Hospital, as stated.

101. The Assistant Administrator and Regional Director, RBLAC explained that the reference was in error, and that the assistance referred to had been for the previous programming cycle.

102. The Executive Board approved the third country programme for the British Virgin Islands (DP/CP/BVI/3).

C. Mid-term reviews

Reports on mid-term reviews: an overview

103. The item was introduced by the Associate Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS).

104. In his opening remarks, the Director highlighted the importance attached to the mid-term review process by both UNDP and the programme countries. The main observations on the 1994 mid-term review process were as follows: that the country programmes remained relevant to the national development priorities of the countries concerned; particular attention was being paid to national capacity-building, national execution, the programme approach and aid coordination; and there was concern about the lack of linkages between the mid-term review process and other United Nations related processes such as the country strategy note, the round table mechanism and Consultative Group meetings.

105. The Director also noted that the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit on Social Development mandated new priorities against which UNDP-supported programmes would be reviewed during the mid-term review process. He also stated that UNDP had taken steps to tighten the planning and management of the mid-term review process to avoid the slippage experienced in 1994, during which time only 16 out of 60 planned reviews had taken place.

106. Several delegations expressed satisfaction with the report, which they said they regarded as candid. Mentioned in particular were the implications of UNDP-supported national execution units, the importance of coordination through the country strategy note and joint programme review exercises, the need to establish linkages between the various United Nations-related processes, the implications of over-programming in Comoros and Seychelles, and the slackness in the management of mid-term reviews and monitoring and evaluation by UNDP was also emphasized.

107. In conclusion, UNDP reaffirmed the importance it attaches to the mid-term review process as a high priority management tool. Action had been taken to improve the management of the process in 1995, taking due consideration of the concerns raised by members of the Board.

108. The Executive Board took note of the report, DP/1995/17.

Mid-term review of the sixth country programme for Bangladesh

109. The representative of Bangladesh reiterated his Government's appreciation for the timely mid-term review, which he stated was of high quality, and expressed support for its recommendations. While commending the progress achieved in national execution, he noted the need for a more vigorous expansion of the modality. He also asked that mid-term review meetings be made more effective through improved planning and adherence to decisions made. He suggested that the role of consultants be kept to the bare minimum in future reviews. He also proposed that a particular programme/project be studied in detail in order to draw lessons on how best to improve programme effectiveness.

110. The representative of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific confirmed that steps had already been taken to accelerate the pace of national execution, including training for directors of nationally executed projects. The representative stressed the high degree of national ownership of the review process, which was due to the participatory mode adopted for the review. Most of the preparatory work had been carried out by joint Government-UNDP committees rather than by consultants. The idea of selecting one particular programme or project for in-depth study in future mid-term reviews was welcomed.

111. The Executive Board took note of the mid-term review of the sixth country programme for Bangladesh (DP/1995/17/Add.1).

Mid-term review of the fifth country programme for Chad

112. One delegation underlined the important leadership role of the United Nations resident coordinator in Chad and asked UNDP to strengthen its assistance in civic education and the reintegration of demobilized military personnel in the country.

113. The representative of the Regional Bureau for Africa underlined the full commitment of UNDP to ensuring the leadership of the Resident Representative during the ongoing political transition in Chad and highlighted the Programme's role in civic education and demobilization of military personnel through its "Three D's" initiative: demilitarization, democracy and development.

114. The Executive Board took note of the mid-term review of the fifth country programme for Chad (DP/1995/17/Add.2)

Mid-term review of the sixth country programme for Guatemala

115. One delegation welcomed the more focused approach of the programme. It would, however, have liked more information on the contribution of UNDP to the post-International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) process, in particular with regard to the implementation of the peace agreements. Further information on the mechanisms of coordination with the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) and other United Nations agencies was also requested. The delegation commended the efforts carried out in the areas of gender and the environment. National execution was also welcomed.

116. The representative of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean explained that the UNDP programme was being refocused to support the peace process and the implementation of the agreements. UNDP was working very closely with MINUGUA through the establishment of a joint unit. Efforts were also being undertaken to improve coordination with other United Nations agencies and the donor community.

117. The Executive Board took note of the mid-term review of the sixth country programme for Guatemala (DP/1995/17/Add.3).

Mid-term review of the fifth country programme for Malawi

118. The Executive Board took note of the mid-term review of the fifth country programme for Malawi (DP/1995/17/Add.4).

Mid-term review of the fifth country programme for Tunisia

119. The Executive Board took note of the mid-term review of the fifth country programmes of UNDP and of UNFPA for Tunisia (DP/1995/17/Add.5).

V. UNDP: EVALUATION

120. The Director of the Office of Evaluation and Strategic Planning (OESP) introduced the report (DP/1995/18). Acknowledging the significant challenges currently facing the development community, she informed the Board that OESP had been operational for just eight months, not sufficient time to address all of those challenges. The Director said the role of OESP within UNDP was to transform UNDP into a learning organization, by ensuring that lessons learned were fed into decision-making. The Office had embarked on several initiatives to strengthen the link between learning and planning. The Director underlined the important contribution of UNDP to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) database. The Office was exploring means of disseminating its findings more widely and decentralizing its database for on-line use in all UNDP country offices. Copies of the report entitled "UNDP's Findings in 1994" were made available.

121. The Director announced that a second volume, "Building a New UNDP", which outlined the way forward to enhanced performance and quality, would soon be available. She then discussed the various approaches to evaluation, acknowledging that in times of shrinking budgets for development, there was a temptation to use evaluation as a control mechanism. While it was essential that evaluation be used to support transparency and good management, the results of evaluation were sustainable only when lessons were learned. Knowledge was the key to development - knowing what works and why. One obstacle to learning that had plagued the development community, she continued, was a defensive

atmosphere that associated acknowledgement of mistakes with reduced funding. The Director pointed out that evaluators must learn what educators had known for some time: that learning thrived in a safe environment. In conclusion, she emphasized the new opportunities for organizational learning created through the dynamics generated in the integration of evaluation and strategic planning.

122. Several delegations thanked the Director of OESP for the transparency and frankness of the report, noting that the preparedness to share criticisms of UNDP was a credit to the organization. Some delegations were especially pleased to see that the comments of the Board of Auditors had been addressed with seriousness. Several delegations expressed support for the idea of evaluation being continuous and learning-focused. That support was accompanied by observations that the direction of the new office had been positive so far but that it had significant challenges ahead. In that regard, some delegations stated that the work programme of OESP seemed too ambitious.

123. One delegation suggested that UNDP was behind in its progress on participatory evaluation, as donor countries had been ensuring participation from programme countries for some time. Another delegation questioned the progress of UNDP in capacity development for evaluation.

124. Concern was expressed by several delegations about the independence of evaluation since it had been placed in a more influential part of the organization. While recognizing that the restructuring gave more status to the evaluation function and created the potential for lessons learned to be fed back into decision-making processes, several delegations stated that it was essential to preserve the independence of the evaluation function.

125. Other delegations expressed concern about the adequacy of funding for the evaluation and monitoring functions. Several delegations emphasized the importance of the monitoring function and requested guidelines and mechanisms to ensure that lessons learned were implemented at the country-office level, especially given increased decentralization. Some delegations requested specific information about the mechanisms for linking evaluation and planning at the country level. Others stressed the importance of the identification of evaluation instruments in the design stage.

126. Some delegations questioned whether programme countries would be involved in the design of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Others expressed interest in participating in the development of those mechanisms and the operationalization of lessons learned.

127. One delegation expressed concern that too few thematic evaluations were conducted during 1994 while others commended OESP for its evaluations of national technical cooperation assessment and programmes (NATCAPs), the resident coordinator function and national execution. One delegation questioned whether cross-sector evaluations and evaluations of evaluation instruments were being carried out. Another asked whether the office would evaluate itself or use external evaluators. Some delegations requested more information about implementation of the control aspect of evaluation.

128. In response to questions, the Director clarified the definition of "participatory evaluation", explaining that, while UNDP had been conducting tripartite reviews with governments in programme countries for some time, "participatory evaluations" involved all stakeholders, especially the ultimate beneficiaries of projects, in evaluations. The Director welcomed those expressions of interest and ensured the Executive Board that through several initiatives, including the Programme Impact Performance Assessment, the Centres of Experimentation, and the field training programme on evaluation, programme countries would indeed be involved in the development of those mechanisms. She also informed the Board that OESP had thus far been on track with its targets for the 1995 work programme. On the question of capacity development, she cited information indicating that UNDP was a leader in the OECD/DAC on the development of evaluation capacity in programme countries. She added that UNDP made extensive use of external consultants.

129. The Executive Board took note of the report on evaluation (DP/1995/18).

VI. UNDP: MATTERS RELATING TO THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

130. The Associate Administrator introduced the item by providing an overview of the present economic and social situation of least developed countries (LDCs), based on the 1995 report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on LDCs. He pointed out that UNDP was providing both central and country-level resources within present budget constraints to support the mid-term global review of the Plan of Action for least developed countries for the 1990s.

131. Several delegations commended UNDP for the report. One delegation called on UNDP to continue to support national capacity-building for aid coordination and added that Governments of LDCs indeed had a responsibility for policy reform but that the international community also needed to give special attention to LDCs, especially those with structural adjustment programmes.

132. Some delegations noted with concern that the percentage share of the total country indicative planning figure (IPF) resources of the Africa region allocated to LDCs had decreased by 3.9 per cent from the fourth to the fifth programming cycle. Others stressed the need to focus UNDP core resources on poverty alleviation and called on donors to contribute to the Special Measures Trust Fund for Least Developed Countries (SMF/LDC), which, despite the efforts of UNDP, had received no new contributions. One delegation expressed support for the institutional link between UNCTAD and UNDP. Others emphasized the importance of round-table meetings and national technical cooperation assessment and programmes (NATCAPs) in mobilizing resources and promoting policy reforms.

133. The representative of the Bureau for Resources and External Affairs said that one of the reasons why the share of African LDCs in the Africa region's country IPFs had fallen was the addition of new programme countries. The

decline was thus technical and not the result of deliberate action or inaction. The recommendations of delegations for the next programming period with regard to LDCs would be taken into account.

134. A draft decision was introduced. One delegation asked that more transparency be ensured in the preparation of draft decisions by the Board. Another delegation said that the Executive Board's new working procedures should be more operational and that the texts of decisions should be shorter.

135. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

95/12. Matters relating to least developed countries

The Executive Board

1. Welcomes the report of the Administrator contained in document DP/1995/19 and the efforts made to address the special needs and priorities of the least developed countries;

2. Welcomes the establishment of an institutional link between the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for the coordination and exchange of information on mattes relating to the least developed countries;

3. Notes with appreciation the work of the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries, which is providing valuable assistance to the least developed countries and requests the Administrator to examine the possibilities for revitalizing the Fund;

4. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to assist in providing the necessary support to the preparations for the mid-term review in 1995 of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries in the 1990s and in mobilizing funding for the participation of least developed countries;

5. Urges the Administrator to ensure that poverty eradication is further strengthened in future activities of UNDP and, in particular, that high priority is given to the least developed countries, keeping in mind the commitments made at the World Summit on Social Development and;

6. Requests the Administrator to keep under review the outcome of the relevant United Nations conferences and of the mid-term review of the Programme of Action and the implications for interventions by the United Nations Development Programme in the least developed countries and to report to the Executive Board as necessary.

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136. One delegation stated that his approval of paragraph five of the decision was without prejudice to the priorities of UNDP in individual countries and the ongoing negotiations on respective allocations by UNDP. Another delegation supported that view and underlined that poverty eradication was one of the four priorities of UNDP approved by the Executive Board.

VII. UNDP: MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMMING CYCLE

137. The President informed the Executive Board that item 6 would be taken up in informal consultations since the documentation on the programming period had not been available in all languages until the previous week.

VIII. HIV AND DEVELOPMENT NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS

138. For consideration of this agenda item, the Executive Board had before it the report of the Administrator on HIV and Development National Professional Officers (DP/1995/21).

139. In introducing the report, the Administrator reiterated the continuing support of UNDP to and active participation in the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS. He stressed that not only was UNDP committing resources to the new programme at the global level but that it was also working in close collaboration with the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme in carrying out the responsibility of UNDP to manage and strengthen the resident coordinator system. He outlined the agreed roles and functions of UNDP after the establishment of the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme and stated that the HIV and Development National Professional Officers (NPOs) were an important part of the strategy of UNDP for mainstreaming the subject of HIV into its work, to be done in collaboration with the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme.

140. The Director of the HIV and Development Programme stated that, subsequent to the establishment of the Joint and Co-Sponsored Programme, there had been ongoing discussions with regard to the relationship between the new programme and the mainstreaming functions of NPOs.

141. Several delegations expressed their satisfaction with the progress made in the establishment of the Joint Co-Sponsored Programme and the appointment of its Director. They urged the co-sponsoring organizations to continue to support the establishment process to build on developing cooperation among themselves. They stressed the importance of setting governance arrangements as soon as possible. Questions were raised about how NPOs and regional and intercountry activities of UNDP would relate to those of the Joint Co-Sponsored Programme and whether UNDP would prepare a strategy for mainstreaming HIV into its ongoing work in collaboration with the Programme. Clarification was also sought on where the financial support of UNDP to the Programme would be reflected in its budget for the framework for the next programming period.

142. In thanking the delegations for their helpful comments and questions, the Director of the HIV and Development Programme confirmed that interregional, regional and intercountry activities remained the subject of collaborative dialogue both between UNDP and the Joint Co-Sponsored Programme and among the co-sponsoring organizations. She stated that decisions with regard to the continuation of such activities awaited the emergence of the vision and strategic plan of the Programme for programming at those levels. She suggested that the reservation of UNDP funds for the Joint Co-Sponsored

Programme might be reflected in line 1.3 of the budget presented as table 1 in document DP/1995/15. The Director further stated that the strategic framework within which the UNDP HIV and Development NPOs would work with the JCP was a matter of ongoing definition and would be discussed with NPOs at residential training workshops, to which representatives of co-sponsoring organizations had been invited.

143. The Director also listed the areas in which UNDP provided support to the Joint Co-Sponsored Programme, reaffirming that UNDP would be seconding staff to the Programme and that decisions with regard to the selection of such staff rested with the Director of the Programme.

144. The delegation welcomed the clarification by UNDP of its financial support to the Joint Co-Sponsored Programme and wished, through the draft decision, to emphasize the importance of mainstreaming HIV and AIDS into UNDP and UNFPA programmes and regular activities and of ensuring that the HIV and Development NPOs carried out their duties in accordance with the objectives of Joint Co-Sponsored Programme. A discussion on amendments ensued, in order that the wording of the decision should better reflect the Executive Board's concern that UNDP and UNFPA work in close collaboration and in accordance with the Joint Co-Sponsored Programme. Following circulation of the Declaration of the Paris AIDS Summit, as requested by several delegations, the Board adopted the following decision:

95/11. Joint and Co-Sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

The Executive Board

1. Urges the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, in common with the other co-sponsoring agencies, to participate actively in the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and to support the Executive Director of the Programme;

2. Notes with satisfaction the Declaration of the Paris AIDS Summit, held on 1 December 1994;

3. Urges that all appropriate measures be taken by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund in the framework of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to implement the Declaration of the Paris AIDS Summit;

4. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to develop a strategy for the inclusion of HIV/AIDS components in their programmes and regular activities within the framework of the joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS;

5. Urges the Administrator to ensure that the HIV and Development National Professional Officers referred to in paragraph 23 of Governing Council decision 93/35 carry out their duties in close collaboration and in accordance with the objectives of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

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IX. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN

145. The President of the Executive Board welcomed the new Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), who presented document DP/1995/22 and addressed the financial situation of UNIFEM. The Fund Director outlined achievements of UNIFEM during the last 20 years and informed the Board of the financial situation the Fund was facing. She assured the Board that the current financial problems were being addressed in collaboration with UNDP. Actions being taken included improving the financial management system of UNIFEM, developing cost-sharing partnerships with major donor institutions, diversifying fund-raising sources, and establishing appropriate financial bridging mechanisms in collaboration with UNDP. In conclusion, the Fund Director asked the Board to propose recommendations to strengthen UNIFEM so as to enable the Fund to meet its commitments to women and to promote sustainable human development.

146. The Administrator emphasized the strong support of UNDP for UNIFEM. The Executive Board was informed that the current financial situation had been examined by internal auditors and that UNDP and UNIFEM were working collaboratively to address the situation. The Administrator further pointed out that every opportunity should be taken to support UNIFEM and that UNDP would consider bridging actions to assist the Fund. The Administrator announced that a comprehensive and informative report on the financial situation, including specific proposals, would be presented to the Board at its annual session 1995.

147. A preliminary paper on the financial situation of UNIFEM was distributed at the meeting.

148. The members of the Executive Board expressed serious concern about the substantial deficit faced by UNIFEM and asked for an urgent and detailed report on how the situation had arisen and the measures that would be taken to correct it. They expressed concern that the matter had not been brought to the Board's attention earlier and that full information, particularly regarding the 1995 commitments of UNIFEM, had not been presented to the Board at the outset of the meeting. The report would be made available to the members and discussed at an informal meeting on 9 May, prior to the annual session. UNIFEM and UNDP were instructed to work closely together to address the financial and managerial issues and to put in place systems that would avoid a repetition of the situation. While acknowledging the importance of UNIFEM activities, especially the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, the members also expressed the need for UNIFEM to take all possible steps to bring its commitments as closely into line with its income as possible while seeking to protect its activities relating to the Conference.

149. One delegation asked that the mandate of UNIFEM be extended to cover the Eastern European region, which was covered by the regular programme of UNDP.

150. In his closing statement, the Administrator assured the Executive Board that the financial situation of UNIFEM had not arisen from any misconduct but rather from a failure of management and administrative controls, which UNIFEM and UNDP were in the process of addressing.

151. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

95/10. United Nations Development Fund for Women

The Executive Board

1. Notes with deep concern the statements made by the Administrator and the Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women to the Executive Board at its second regular session and expresses its deep concern over the serious financial and administrative situation in the Fund;

2. Also notes the efforts undertaken to date by the Administrator and the Director to meet these concerns;

3. Requests the Administrator, in cooperation with the Director and the Consultative Committee:

(a) To present as soon as possible a detailed analysis of the reasons for, the scope of and implications, at all levels, for the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations Development Programme of the financial and administrative situation in the Fund, including an up-to-date balance sheet of the Fund's finances and details of the operation of the Fund's operational reserve and guidelines governing access to it;

(b) To present as soon as possible a report on all the matters concerning steps taken to strengthen the financial, administrative and managerial oversight of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, including the role of the United Nations Development Programme in providing supervision and systems;

(c) To draw up a plan, without delay, which will put the finances, administration and management of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on a sound basis, including the possible need for Executive Board actions and present it to the Board at its annual session 1995;

4. Decides that the United Nations Development Fund for Women should re-examine the operations of the Fund, including its administrative costs, and its commitments as presented to the Executive Board, including all its financial activities in relation to the Fourth World Conference on Women, and that the United Nations Development Fund for Women should undertake all efforts to reduce the size and number of its commitments and disbursements in accordance with projected income and to report on these efforts to the Board, bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the Fund with regard to the Fourth World Conference on Women;

5. Also decides, based on the information given to the Executive Board on the commitments and planned activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women for the Fourth World Conference on Women, that as of today the Fund shall not enter into any new commitments prior to the deliberations of the Executive Board on the issues contained in the documents requested above;

6. Requests the Administrator, in cooperation with the Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, to convene an informal meeting of the Executive Board in May 1995 at the latest in order to provide a progress report on the aforementioned issues as well as a synopsis of the internal audit report;

7. Also requests the Administrator to inform the Board of Auditors of the wish of the Executive Board, that the United Nations Development Fund for Women be included with priority in its current programme of work;

8. Decides to consider, at its annual session 1995, the terms of reference and means of financing for an external evaluation of the United Nations Development Fund for Women;

9. Also decides, in light of the above and awaiting the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women, to postpone consideration on the future direction of the Fund to the first regular session 1996.

7 April 1995

X. UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

152. The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), in introducing document DP/1995/23, emphasized the Fund's role in poverty eradication in the least developed countries. He stressed that, although UNCDF was aiming for greater focus by concentrating programmes in a single geographical area in each country, it was not deviating from its mandate and continued to provide infrastructure and credit, particularly to the rural poor. The Executive Secretary noted that approximately 70 per cent of UNCDF resources were earmarked for Africa. In the current climate of democratization and decentralization, UNCDF was forming partnerships with local governments, civil society and the private sector. In addition, UNCDF was promoting South-South cooperation by bringing together community development groups from different countries to share experience in rural development planning, and North-South cooperation by attracting assistance from northern associations of local authorities for southern counterparts. Lessons learned from UNCDF projects which had highly visible results could be transferred to capitals and other assistance agencies for possible replication on a larger scale. The Executive Secretary said the advantages of UNCDF were its size (i.e., between small non-governmental organization and an international financial institution), its experience with participatory approaches, ability to provide grants, and partnership with UNDP. The Executive Secretary informed the Board that the restructuring of UNCDF would reduce staff costs by 15 per cent and enable greater creativity and productivity by bringing management and programming staff into a more direct relationship. While efforts had been made to identify sources of non-traditional financing, the greatest difficulty facing the Fund was a continued decline in resources.

153. The new Executive Secretary of UNCDF was welcomed by the Board. Many delegations expressed support for the work of the Fund in addressing one of the commitments of the World Summit on Social Development, that of increasing assistance to African countries and LDCs. Several delegations noted that the aims of the Fund were similar to those of their own bilateral assistance organizations. The representative of one Government expressed interest in entering into joint programming with the Fund. Many delegations, from both donor and programme countries, acknowledged the overall performance of the Fund, citing particularly its focused approach and ability to engage local partners and its work on the concept of "eco-swaps" and in developing intermediate towns. UNCDF activity in evaluation was also viewed favourably. Delegations from several programme countries noted that UNCDF was well known in the LDCs, with one speaker underlining the reputation of UNCDF for efficiency.

154. Several delegations expressed concern about the relationship of UNCDF with UNDP, and some delegations said that the Fund should make greater efforts to coordinate activities in the field. In response, the Deputy Executive Secretary said that the integration of UNCDF and UNDP programmes was proceeding and that there were a number of examples of close cooperation between the two organizations. Regarding the restructuring, several delegations welcomed reductions in cost while one delegation was concerned that project implementation should not suffer.

155. Many delegations expressed concern over the recent drop in voluntary contributions to the Fund. Several others urged donors who did not currently contribute to the Fund to reconsider entering the donor group. The representative of one donor country announced the intention of his Government to increase its contribution to UNCDF by 12.5 per cent, to approximately $8.2 million. The Fund's efforts to attract non-traditional financing were appreciated, with one delegation recognizing the labour-intensive character of those efforts. One delegation suggested that a new approach to funding through third-party cost sharing, including mobilizing financing from NGOs and higher levels of financing from programme Governments, might be explored.

156. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

95/9. United Nations Capital Development Fund

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the present report;

2. Appeals to all interested donor countries, organizations and other parties to make voluntary contributions to the Fund;

3. Encourages the Administrator to continue to refine the community development focus of the Fund, which would include a stronger focus on projects involving local authorities, the private sector and civil society in the context of the mandate assigned to it.

6 April 1995

XI. UNDP: ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

157. The Director of the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP) said UNDP was grateful for the generous contributions of the international donor community, which had taken advantage of the Programme's long-standing presence in the Territories and capacity to implement large-scale programmes. Since the publication of the report, additional contributions or indications of financial support had been received from the Governments of Finland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, and the United States.

158. In recent months, both the Administrator and the Associate Administrator had visited the West Bank and Gaza. Their visits included consultations with the head of the Palestinian National Authority, and in the case of the Administrator, meetings with the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Israel. In March 1995, a new office for UNDP Gaza staff was inaugurated, which would also serve as a base for Gaza-based employees of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNICEF and the World Food Programme.

159. With reference to the coordination of assistance, UNDP had been represented as part of the United Nations delegation in virtually all meetings of the multilateral working groups, the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, and the Consultative Group for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The UNDP office in Jerusalem had played an active role in the recently created Local Aid Coordination Committee, jointly co-chaired by Norway, the World Bank and the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories. UNDP served as the secretariat of the six sector working groups under the auspices of the Committee.

160. The Director underlined the need for bilateral donors to allocate untied funds, in order for the United Nations technical cooperation agencies and UNDP to continue to play a key role. Those funds could provide seed money to enable the United Nations agencies to design new programmes and pipelines of projects, particularly in employment generation.

161. For the future, it was expected that UNDP would increase its focus for a longer-term perspective on poverty eradication, environment, human resources development and governance. The UNDP office was preparing a two-year informal planning framework, in consultation with the Palestinian authorities, for submission to donors before the end of June 1995.

162. The Permanent Observer for Palestine to the United Nations thanked UNDP for its presentation and said quick responses from the donor community were needed. The role of United Nations agencies was appreciated, in particular the establishment of the Special Coordinator for the Occupied Territories. He agreed with the assessment provided by UNDP in its report, that economic development, job creation, and strengthening of public administration were needed. Palestinian institutions should be employed in that regard and pledged assistance should be channeled to the Palestinian authorities. He outlined the difficult economic situation

currently faced. He asked PAPP to redouble its efforts to assist the Palestinian National Authority and expressed his commitment to cooperation in that regard. He also thanked donors who had already contributed to the Programme.

163. Many delegations commended UNDP for its work in the area, especially as a contribution to the peace process. UNDP activities in various sectors, such as job creation and income-generating activities, education, public-institution building, in water resources, agriculture, and fisheries, and enhancement of the role of women, were considered to be especially important. Several delegations commented that the work of UNDP helped to raise living standards and encouraged economic growth in the Territories. The importance of creating an environment for private investment was underlined by others.

164. UNDP was urged to work closely with the structures created since the signing of the Declaration of Principles and in close cooperation with other institutions in the region. Some delegations asked for more information regarding future funding, disbursements, the outlook on programmes and projects to be supported by UNDP in 1995 and beyond, and the relationship of UNDP with the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories. One delegation stressed that the importance of long-term technical cooperation as vital for success in establishing the local authorities, but added that if short-term running costs were not met, the whole process could be endangered. Another delegation asked UNDP to explain the philosophy of its work in the Territories, and asked if its current approach could be sustained in the years to come. Questions on specific projects referred to in the document were also put forward.

165. The Director of the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People, in response to the questions of delegations, stated that the relationship between UNDP and the United Nations Special Coordinator was mutually supportive. Annual financial data, including break-down by donor, commitments and disbursements, could be provided to interested delegations. Disbursements in 1994 had been $22 million, and it was hoped that the figure would reach $40 million in 1995. The Director added that if donors wanted funds to be reprogrammed for quicker disbursement, UNDP could consider the issue to the extent that totally uncommitted funds were available.

166. In response to an inquiry, the Director clarified that the figures used in the document reflected amounts received since submission of the previous report to Executive Board (DP/1993/19) and the submission of the current report. Japan had been the largest contributor by far, with nearly $60 million in commitments.

167. The Special Representative of the Administrator, Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People, explained that the Programme was essentially a reaction to a situation in which infrastructure and training were needed. There were also tremendous needs in water, sanitation and in other areas. Further efforts were needed, he stated, to work out with the Palestinian Authorities the nature of UNDP assistance in other fields, particularly in governance. The two-year programming cycle would enable UNDP to work with the Palestinian authorities and donors and express longer-term prospects.

168. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

95/8. Assistance to the Palestinian People

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the present report;

2. Encourages the international donor community to increase contributions to the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People and to take full advantage of its unique and effective delivery capacity.

4 April 1995

XII. OTHER MATTERS

A. Oral report on field visit

169. The representative of the United Kingdom presented an oral report on the March 1995 UNDP/UNFPA field visit to Colombia and Nicaragua. A draft report was circulated. He said it was evident that the United Nations system, in particular UNDP and UNFPA, was making a real contribution to development for people in those countries although there were some variations in performance.

170. In their observations, the team underlined the usefulness for other regions to have increased awareness of the Latin American experience, including in cost-sharing. Also, there was a need to incorporate performance indicators in project design to improve evaluation of the impact of UNDP and UNFPA activities, and enhanced training of national staff in that regard. The team noted the impressive commitment to the country strategy note (CSN) in both countries. It was noted that countries should have a clear and up-to-date national strategy prior to beginning the process of developing the CSN. The team cited a need to ensure support and training for the resident coordinator function. Moreover, they highlighted the need for the process of prioritization and comparative advantages of the United Nations system to be dealt with in a structured manner. The team concluded that both organizations had high caliber staff who were dedicated to effective delivery of UNDP and UNFPA assistance.

171. The representative of Colombia expressed appreciation for the report and the visit to his country. He noted that Colombia's national plan for economic and social developent was almost complete and that the Economic and Social Policy Council would soon establish policies for international cooperation, taking into account the observations of the visit. He thanked the UNDP Secretariat for its support to the Mission of Colombia in arranging the visit.

172. The representative of Nicaragua appreciated the dedication and interest of the participants. He underlined the usefulness of the visit to increased understanding by Executive Board members of the programme in his country.

173. The Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNFPA expressed appreciation for the prompt reporting on the visit and said the observations would be carefully considered.

174. Upon the request of one delegation, an organizational chart of UNDP was distributed to the Executive Board. Regarding a request for a staff list of UNDP and UNFPA, the Secretary of the Board stated that it was normally distributed at the time of discussions on the budget.

175. Another delegation asked that UNDP and UNFPA publications be made available to Board members, particularly if they are mentioned in presentations to the Board.

B. Conclusion of the session

176. The Executive Board concluded its work by adopting the following decision:

95/13. Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its second regular session 1995

The Executive Board

Recalls that during the second regular session 1995 it:

ITEM 1: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Approved the agenda and work plan for its second regular session 1995 (DP/1995/L.2/Rev. 1);

Approved the report of the first regular session 1995 (DP/1995/9);

Adopted the guidelines for UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board field visits contained in the note by the Executive Board secretariat (DP/1995/14);

Approved the following schedule of future sessions of the Executive Board subject to the approval of the Committee on Conferences:

Annual session 1995:	5-16 June 1995
Third regular session 1995:	28 August-1 September 1995
First regular session 1996:	16-19 January 1996
Second regular session 1996:	25-29 March 1996
Annual session 1996:	20-31 May 1996*
Third regular session 1996:	(open)

Agreed to the subjects to be discussed at these sessions as listed in the annex;

ITEM 2: UNFPA: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Approved assistance to the Government of Benin (DP/FPA/CP/148);

Approved assistance to the Government of Comoros (DP/FPA/CP/141);

Approved assistance to the Government of Mauritius (DP/FPA/CP/143);

Approved assistance to the Government of Mozambique (DP/FPA/CP/142);

Approved assistance to the Government of the Republic of the Sudan (DP/FPA/CP/145);

Approved assistance to the Governments of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (DP/FPA/CP/144);

Approved assistance to the Government of Cambodia: Support to the National Population Census (DP/FPA/KHM/PROJ/2) and Institutional Strengthening and Family Health Improvement through Birth Spacing (DP/FPA/KHM/PROJ/1);

ITEMS 2 and 3: UNDP AND UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS AND RELATED MATTERS

Approved UNFPA assistance to the Government of Turkey (DP/FPA/CP/147);

Approved UNFPA assistance to the Government of Indonesia (DP/FPA/CP/146);

Approved the UNDP fifth country programme for Turkey (DP/CP/TUR/5);

Approved the UNDP cooperation framework with Indonesia (DP/CP/INS/5) and took note of the note by the Administrator (DP/CP/INS/NOTE/5);

ITEM 3: UNDP: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS

Approved the first country programme for Belarus (DP/CP/BYE/1);

Approved the first country programme for Estonia (DP/CP/EST/1);

Approved the first country programme for the Kyrgyz Republic (DP/CP/KYR/1);

Approved the first country programme for Latvia (DP/CP/LAT/1);

Approved the first country programme for Lithuania (DP/CP/LIT/1);

Approved the first country programme for the Republic of Moldova (DP/CP/MOL/1);

Approved the first country programme for Ukraine (DP/CP/UKR/1);

Approved the first country programme for Uzbekistan (DP/CP/UZB/1);

Approved the fifth country programme for Barbados (DP/CP/BAR/5);

Approved the third country programme for the British Virgin Islands (DP/CP/BVI/3);

Took note of the overview report on mid-term reviews (DP/1994/17);

Took note of the mid-term review of the fifth country programme for Bangladesh (DP/1995/17/Add.1);

Took note of the mid-term review of the fifth country programme for Chad (DP/1995/17/Add.2);

Took note of the mid-term review of the sixth country programme for Guatemala (DP/1995/17/Add.3);

Took note of the mid-term review of the fifth country programme for Malawi (DP/1995/17/Add.4);

Took note of the mid-term review of the fifth country programme for Tunisia (DP/1995/17/Add.5);

ITEM 4: UNDP: EVALUATION

Took note of the report on evaluation (DP/1995/18);

ITEM 5: UNDP: MATTERS RELATING TO THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Adopted decision 95/12 of 7 April 1995 on least developed countries;

ITEM 6: UNDP: MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMMING CYCLES a/

ITEM 7: UNDP: HIV AND DEVELOPMENT NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS

Adopted decision 95/11 of 7 April 1995 on the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

ITEM 8: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN

Adopted decision 95/10 of 7 April 1995 on the United Nations Development Fund for Women;

ITEM 9: UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Adopted decision 95/9 of 6 April 1995 on the United Nations Capital Development Fund;

ITEM 10: UNDP: ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

Adopted decision 95/8 of 4 April 1995 on UNDP assistance to the Palestinian people;

7 April 1995

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a/ Item 6 on the framework for the next programming period was taken up in informal consultations.

Annex

ALLOCATION OF SUBJECTS FOR FUTURE SESSIONS

The following subjects are scheduled to be considered at future sessions:

Annual session (5-16 June 1995)

Item 1. Organizational matters

UNFPA segment - 5-9 June:

Item 2. Report of the Executive Director and programme-level activities

- Report of the Executive Director for 1994 (including report to the Economic and Social Council, implementation of resolution 47/199, Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements, UNFPA assistance to Rwanda)
- Work plan and request for programme expenditure authority
- Status of financial implementation of country programmes and projects
- Report on programme priorities and future directions of UNFPA in light of the ICPD

Item 3. Country and Intercountry programmes

- Country programmes
- Intercountry programme

UNFPA/UNDP joint segment

Item 4. UNFPA/UNDP: Harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts (General Assembly resolution 49/216)

Item 5. UNFPA/UNDP: Follow up to ICPD

UNDP segment: 12-16 June

Item 6. Annual report of the Administrator and related matters

- Annual report of the Administrator including Report to the Economic and Social Council
- The role of UNDP in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (94/13, paragraph 4)

Item 7. Future of UNDP (94/14, paragraph 6)

Item 8. Matters relating to the programming cycles (94/17, paragraph 4)

Item 9. Human Development Report (94/15, paragraph 3)

Item 10. Technical cooperation among developing countries (92/2, paragraph 5 (e))

Item 11. United Nations Office for Project Services (94/32, paragraph 9 and 95/1, paragraph 8)

Item 12. United Nations Development Fund for Women

Item 13. Other matters

Note

The ninth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of TCDC is scheduled to be held from 30 May to 2 June 1995, immediately preceding the annual session of the Executive Board. The report of the session is expected to be adopted on Thursday, 8 June 1995 in the afternoon.

Third regular session (28 August - 1 September 1995)

- Organizational matters (including follow-up to the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council)

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UNFPA SEGMENT

- Report on the implementation of UNFPA successor support cost arrangements

- Financial and budgetary matters:

  -- Annual financial review, 1994

  -- Biennial budget proposals for 1996-1997

- Report of ACABQ on budget estimates

- Country programmes and projects: Latin America and the Caribbean (Costa Rica)

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JOINT UNFPA/UNDP SEGMENT

- UNDP/UNFPA: Field visits 1995

- UNDP/UNFPA: Harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts (94/30)

UNDP SEGMENT

- Country programmes and related matter:

  -- Mid-term review of Latin America and the Caribbean regional programme

- Matters relating to the programming cycles:

  -- Report on Haiti (95/4, paragraph 2)

- Agency support costs (91/32)

- Financial and budgetary matters:

  -- Proposed revisions to UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules related to support cost arrangements

  -- Annual review of the financial situation 1994 (95/3, paragraph 7)

  -- Revised budget estimates for the 1994-1995 biennium and budget estimates for the 1996-1997 biennium

  -- Report of ACABQ on the budget estimates

  -- Audited accounts and audit reports of the executing agencies as at 31/12/1993

- Procurement from developing countries

- United Nations system regular and extrabudgetary technical cooperation expenditures

- Other matters

First regular session (16-19 January 1996)

- Organizational matters (including election of Bureau)
- UNDP: Matters relating to the programming cycles
- UNDP: Country programmes and related matters
- Follow-up to and preparations for the Economic and Social Council
- United Nations technical cooperation activities
- UNFPA segment

Second regular session (25-29 March 1996)

- Organizational matters
- UNFPA segment
- UNDP: Country programmes and related matters
- UNDP: Evaluation
- UNDP: United Nations Volunteers

Annual session (20-31 May 1996)

- Organizational matters
- UNDP segment
- UNFPA segment

Third regular session (open)

- Organizational matters
- UNFPA segment
- UNDP country programmes and related matters
- Agency support costs